

Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

September 10, 2021

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director

Rusty Boggs, Pianist

Church Phone: (865) 689-3349

Web Page: www.bookwalter-umc.org

Edie Jo Hall, Children's Director

Zach Smith, Youth Director

LiveStream: www.bumclive.live

Ministry to God through prayer and worship.

Ministry to one another through caring discipleship.

Ministry to others by meeting needs and winning them to Christ.

The recent withdrawal of our forces from Afghanistan and the marking of 20 years since the 9/11 attacks led me to look up some articles I wrote in its wake. I will just let this speak for itself.

December 18, 2001

Christmas and toys go together. No matter how much we preach about "commercialism" and the "true meaning of Christmas" it still comes down to toys. This is what I remember as a child and what preoccupies me as a parent. Is that so terribly wrong?

We lit a candle in the advent wreath Sunday that represented the Joy of Christ coming into the world. We did this with all the solemnity of a funeral. Can I look forward to hearing us sing "Joy to the World" on Christmas Eve without cracking a smile? You say, "Oh but Steve these are serious times." I ask what better demonstrates our faith than by having hope when the world is tilting toward despair and grief?

I wondered as we began our campaign of "Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan if we really needed to be there. It is one thing to seek justice for terrorist acts. It is an altogether different matter to get entangled in the internal affairs of a foreign government. I recall the destruction of the U.S. Seal on the Embassy and the

burning of our flag not long after September 11. What in the world are we getting into?

Then I saw a single image on television which spoke volumes and convinced me the United States was doing humanity a favor by tangling with the Taliban. The image was a smiling boy flying a kite after the liberation of his village.

Under the misguided fundamentalism of the Taliban's version of Islam, kite flying was forbidden. Afghan children have a long tradition of flying kites. What kind of twisted religion would take away the joy of symbolically flying above such a bleak landscape? How does that praise Allah? If we have done nothing other than place a toy in the hand of an impoverished child, then perhaps there is a little more joy in the world this Christmas. *Steve*

BABY SHOWER

You are invited to a Baby Shower for Perry and Maggie Hall's baby girl, Evelyn, on Sunday, September 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall at church. We will be following proper Covid protocol and ask that you wear a mask to protect the mommy-to-be and baby Evelyn. Perry and Maggie are registered at Target.

CHURCH COUNCIL

We will be having a church council meeting on Monday, September 13 at 7:00 PM. You may join us in person in the fellowship hall at church or remotely via Zoom. Council Chair Mary Mahoney has already sent a link to the meeting. If you have not received that email and would like to participate, contact her or Rev. Doyal or the church office.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We will begin our study of “Heroes of Faith” on September 15 at 6:30 PM. This is part of the Life Guide bible study series like our last one. This is an 8 week study that takes a closer look at the individuals listed in Hebrews 11. For those who already signed up, there are books awaiting you in the fellowship hall. If you still want to participate, it’s not too late. You can order your own book through Amazon for \$10 and it should get here in time.

Rev. Doyal asks participants to read the first lesson on Abel titled “Pleasing God” before our first session.

CONSIGNMENT SALE

We will be having a Children’s Consignment Sale from Thursday September 30 through Saturday, October 2. Thursday hours are 4 – 8 p.m. Friday hours are 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday hours 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. (Many items will be half off on Saturday)

They still need more consignors at this time. There is further information on the church Facebook page as well as the church website.